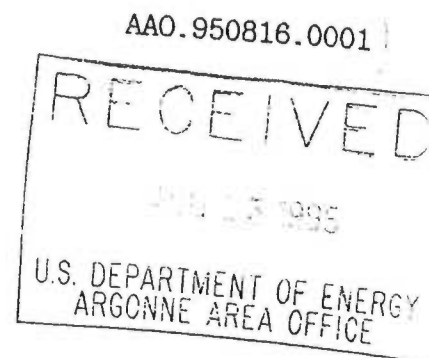




Department of Energy
Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

August 14, 1995



Timothy S. Crawford, Manager
Argonne Group

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE PROPOSED
MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE CAUSING DAMAGE AT ARGONNE NATIONAL
LABORATORY-EAST

I have made a determination on the request for adoption of the subject EA and issuance of a Department of Energy (DOE) Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Based upon recommendations following staff review, I have determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the context of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). Accordingly, the EA has been adopted, and I have signed the enclosed FONSI. The FONSI does not need to be published in the Federal Register because this action does not have effects of national concern. However, in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6, the local public must be notified of the availability of the EA and FONSI. Distribution of the adopted EA and the enclosed FONSI we have prepared should be made to the appropriate regulators, elected officials, and public reading rooms for access by all other stakeholders and interested parties. Please provide the Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42) with an electronic file version of the adopted EA, five copies of the adopted EA, a signed copy of the DOE FONSI, and a record of distribution of the EA and FONSI.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chicago Operations Office NEPA Compliance Officer, Dr. W. S. White, at 708-252-2101.


Cherri J. Langenfeld
Manager

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: C. Borgstrom, HQ, EH-42/FORSTL, w/encl.
C. Hickey, HQ, ER-8.2/GTN, w/encl.

U.S. Department of Energy
Adoption of Final Environmental Assessment on Management of Wildlife Causing
Damage at Argonne National Laboratory-East, DuPage County, Illinois

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The DOE, after an independent review, has adopted an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which evaluates use of an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management approach at Argonne National Laboratory-East (ANL-E) in DuPage County, Illinois (April 1995). In 1994, the USDA issued a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that covers nationwide animal damage control activities. The EA for Management of Wildlife Causing Damage at ANL-E tiers off this programmatic EIS. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wrote the EA as a result of DOE's request to USDA to prepare and implement a comprehensive Wildlife Management Damage Plan; the USDA has authority for animal damage control under the Animal Damage Control Act of 1931, as amended, and the Rural Development, Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1988. DOE has determined, based on the analysis in the EA, that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Therefore, the preparation of an EIS is not required.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The DOE will use the Integrated Wildlife Management approach (Volume 4, Chapter 1, pages 1-7 of the Animal Damage Control Final EIS, USDA 1994) at Argonne to minimize safety hazards, environmental degradation, damage to laboratory facilities, and to maintain healthy wildlife populations. The Integrated Wildlife Management approach would use available lethal and nonlethal management techniques to minimize damage caused by wildlife at Argonne. White-tailed deer densities would be reduced to 8/km² (20/mi²) and European fallow deer densities would be reduced to 8/km² (20/mi²). Target densities for both types of deer would be maintained at this level. Individual members of other wildlife species would be managed if and when they cause safety hazards, environmental degradation, or damage to laboratory facilities.

Management of wildlife is needed for the following reasons: (1) there are safety hazards at Argonne due to increased deer population; (2) the deer are sick and emaciated; 3) the deer have caused environmental degradation at Argonne including vegetation browse lines and decreased vegetation near the ground; and (4) individual members of other wildlife species have damaged structures and foundations and created unsanitary conditions at Argonne.

The DOE action for wildlife management at Argonne would be the same as the action analyzed in the USDA's EA. However, DOE, as the owner of the Argonne site, makes the final decision on whether or not to implement the proposed action.

ALTERNATIVES: In addition to the Integrated Wildlife Management approach, the EA considered the no action alternative, nonlethal management (which prohibits lethal management), and nonlethal management attempted prior to lethal management (which would preclude use of lethal means until all nonlethal means have been implemented and failed). The no action alternative would be a continuation of existing wildlife management activities at Argonne but would not include deer removal activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: No significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action are anticipated. The adoption of the USDA Final EA is based on the following factors. The wildlife damage management action and their effects would be confined to the Argonne environs and are not regional or national in scope. The impacts of the wildlife damage management action would not be significant on the human environment. There are no effects on public health and safety. The proposed action will not impact sensitive resources at Argonne such as wetlands or archaeological sites. The number of animals affected by the action is small in comparison to the total regional populations. Effects on wildlife or wildlife habitats would be minimal. There would not be significant cumulative effects in conjunction with other actions implemented or planned within the area. The proposed action would have no effects on threatened or endangered species and the action would be in compliance with Federal, State, and local laws and requirements.

The proposed Integrated Wildlife Management approach would use a variety of available and effective wildlife damage management techniques to reduce the damage caused by wildlife at Argonne. Specific control techniques would be selected using an Animal Damage Control decision model process that considers all issues pertinent to the specific damage situation, such as the nature and magnitude of the damage, the ability of the resource to sustain further damage, biologic and economic factors, and others as appropriate. The process is flexible and would allow adequate response to wildlife damage at Argonne.

DETERMINATION: The DOE has independently reviewed the USDA EA on Management of Wildlife Causing Damage at ANL-E. DOE has determined that the EA contains adequate analyzes on the impacts of the proposed action and has considered public comments. DOE is accordingly adopting this EA. Based on the analysis in the EA, DOE has determined that implementing the proposed Integrated Wildlife Management approach at Argonne does not constitute a major Federal Action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, an EIS on the proposed action is not required.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY: Copies of the EA are available from:

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For further information regarding the DOE NEPA process contact:

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Issued in Argonne, Illinois, this 14th day of August 1995


Cherri J. Langenfeld
Manager